

Workingmen's Houses,  
James Martin House  
844 Dodge Street  
Dubuque  
Dubuque County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-BI

HABS  
IOWA,  
31-DUBU,  
14-BI-

DRAWINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

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**Site Location:** 844 Dodge Street  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
OOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.2  
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 SW1/4 S25 T89N R2E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.691310.4706630  
Lot dimensions : 34'x 100' : .08 acre  
Lot description: Lot 9 of Subdivision of Out  
Lot 730 and Union Addition

**Present Owner:** David L. Bonnett et al.  
**Present Usage:** vacant  
**Present Condition :** fair

**Overall Dimensions:** 2-story main block: 26'x 18'; front porch: 6'x 18';  
1-story rear addition: 12'x 14'; side porch: 12'x 4'.

**Orientation :** northwest

**Architectural** Plan type : 2-story rectangle with 1-story rear additions.  
**Description :** Foundation: coursed limestone perimeter walls.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: painted beveled wood siding with plain corner boards.

**Roofs** : moderately pitched gables over main block and rear addition; shallow hip over front porch; shallow shed over side porch; asphalt shingles or roll roofing throughout.

**Chimneys** : interior end brick chimney centered on ridge at rear of main block.

**Doors** : none

**Windows** : painted wood 2/2 double-hung in 3 asymmetrical-ly placed bays on the front; 2/2 double-hung elsewhere; plain casements with slip sills throughout.

**Openings** : paneled and lighted, single-leaf front door placed in north corner; similar door centered in side porch.

**Porches** : full width, 1-story open front porch; full length, open side porch on northeast side of rear addition.

**Details** : boxed and molded cornices on main and porch roofs; tapered square front porch columns, with abbreviated caps and plinths.

Construction Date : 1886

Architecture Style: Gable ended box

Physical History : Notable Dubuque capitalist and land speculator John D. Bush subdivided portions of Out Lot 730 and the Union Addition into residential lots in October 1884. The following June he sold Lot 9 of his new subdivision along Dodge Street to James and Mary Martin for \$210. A candy maker for William Lawther, Martin mortgaged the land in November 1885, and early the next year he built this modest two-story house for \$800. The Martins lived here for twenty years before selling the house to Mary C. Swift, an unmarried machine operator for the Dubuque Tanning and Robe Company, in 1906. Swift in turn sold the property in 1914 to Maurice Hennessey, a bartender for T.C. Hanley's saloon. Hennessey later became a soft drink distributor and occupied the house with his wife Ellen [Ella] until his death in July 1947. Ellen turned the property over to daughter Joann Hennessey Carr in 1962. The building has undergone only relatively minor alterations and additions to the exterior and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Significance: With its gable ended configuration and three-bay facade, the James Martin House is a representative example of the modest frame houses constructed along Dodge Street by members of the working class in the 1880s.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.  
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-49&50.  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."  
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).  
*Dubuque Daily Herald*: 1 January 1887.

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